

REMARKS

In light of the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 15 and 29 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-15 and 17-29 are pending.

Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 15, 17-22, 24 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *McCoskey* (U.S. Patent Appn. No. 2003/0028889). In addition, claims 9, 11-14, 23 and 25-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *McCoskey* in view of *Young* (U.S. Patent 5,479,266).

The present claims now recite:

setting a program at which the operations are started, based on a user supplying a control signal for selecting, as the starting program, program content being audiovisually rendered for being watched and listened to by the user.

(Claims 15 and 29; claim 1 contains similar limitations). According to the present invention, while program content is being "audiovisually rendered" so that a user may watch and listen to the program content, the user may set the program content as "a starting program" by "supplying a control signal," such as by pushing a predetermined button on a remote controller. (See specification, for example, paragraph [0077] and FIG. 4). Consequently, the user may initiate a search for programs related to the program content "that is presently watched" by the user, where such program content is the starting program and information identifying the starting program is used

for the search, without the user temporarily stopping his watching of the program content. (See specification, for example, paragraphs [0063] and [0068]; see also paragraph [0009]).

In contrast to the presently claimed invention, although the applied portions of *McCoskey* appear to describe entering search criteria for obtaining programs related to the search criteria, *McCoskey* does not appear to disclose or suggest setting the program content being watched by a user as a starting program based upon which related programs may be extracted from a search on a database. In particular, nowhere do the applied portions of *McCoskey* appear to disclose or suggest that, while program content is being audiovisually rendered for being watched and listened to by a user, the user may supply a control signal to select the program content as a starting program, and furthermore using information identifying the starting program to search a database for related programs, as required by the present claims.

In addition, applicants respectfully assert that the applied portions of *Young* do not appear to disclose or suggest selecting program content being audiovisually rendered as a starting program and using information identifying the starting program to extract programs related to the starting program from a database, as discussed above and required by the presently claimed invention.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, *McCoskey*, alone or in combination with *Young*, fail to meet all of the limitations of the present invention, and the rejected claims should now be allowed.



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As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

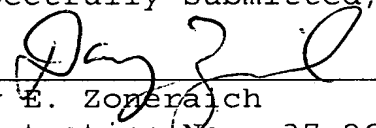
If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By


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